

Message Text

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S/SMR. GAMMON

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R 261951Z NOV 73
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

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E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PFOR UR

SUBJECT: SOVIET EMBASSY RECEPTION TO MARK FORTIETH
ANNIVERSARY OF ESTABLISHMENT OF DIPLOMATIC
RELATIONS

1. ON NOVEMBER 21, AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN HOSTED AN EVENING RECEPTION TO MARK THE FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF US-USSR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. US ATTENDANCE INCLUDED DEPUTY SECRETARY RUSH, TREASURY SECRETARY SCHULTZ, SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE BUTZ, SENATORS SCOTT, SYMINGTON, AND HUMPHREY AND USIA DIRECTOR KEOGH.

2. AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN'S SPEECH WAS LOW-KEY AND INFORMAL. HE SAID BOTH COUNTRIES SHOULD STRIVE TO PREVENT THE PLANET FROM TURNING INTO A WORLD OF APES. WITH SLIGHT DIG AT US KNOW-NOTHING ATTITUDE ABOUT USSR IN THIRTIES, HE COMPARED UNEVEN PATTERN OF RELATIONS OVER 40-YEAR HISTORY TO TRAFFIC ON NEVSKIY PROSPEKT AND NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE; OFTEN MOVING IN DIFFERENT DIRECTIONS AND AT DIFFERENT

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SPEEDS. POSITIVE ASPECTS, PREDOMINATE, HOWEVER, HE SAID,

AND NOTED INCREASING TEMPO OF GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT AGREEMENTS PROMPTED BY PRESIDENT'S AND BREZHNEV'S VISITS. AMBASSADOR ENDED SPEECH ON NOTE THAT WE SHOULD WORK TOGETHER IN FRIENDSHIP FOR SAKE OF FUTURE GENERATIONS.

3. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY REPLIED IN AN EQUALLY FRIENDLY SPIRIT THAT DETENTE DOES NOT MEAN THAT THERE WILL NO LONGER BE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE U.S. AND THE USSR OR THAT EITHER THE U.S. OR THE USSR WILL CHANGE ITS OBJECTIVES OR SOCIAL OR POLITICAL SYSTEMS. WHAT DETENTE MEANS IS THAT THE U.S. AND THE USSR WILL ATTEMPT TO SOLVE THESE DIFFERENCES BY REASON, DISCUSSION, AND NEGOTIATION, RATHER THAN BY CONFRONTATION. HE CITED AN ANECDOTE TOLD HIM BY AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV. THE AMBASSADOR, WHILE STATIONED IN CHINA IN THE 1950'S, WAS FREQUENTLY CALLED BY CHAIRMAN MAO AT TWO OR THREE IN THE MORNING. ON ONE OF THESE OCCASIONS, AMBASSADOR ABRASIMOV INQUIRED OF CHAIRMAN MAO WHY THESE CALLS CAME AT SUCH AN UNUSUAL HOUR. CHAIRMAN MAO REPLIED THAT THE AMERICANS WERE AWAKE AT THAT TIME, AND WHILE THE AMERICANS WERE AWAKE HE COULD NOT SLEEP. THE DEPUTY SECRETARY CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT IN AN ERA OF DETENTE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE CAN SLEEP WHILE THE SOVIET PEOPLE ARE AWAKE AND THE SOVIET PEOPLE CAN SLEEP WHILE THE AMERICAN PEOPLE ARE AWAKE.

4. SPEECHES FOLLOWED BY SOVIET EMBASSY EMPLOYEES' MUSICAL ACTS, PERFORMANCE BY CHILDREN'S DANCE GROUP, COCKTAIL BUFFET, AND SCREENING OF JOSEPH COTTEN-NARRATED TRAVELOGUE OF MOSCOW STREETS AND CULTURAL ATTRACTIONS. KISSINGER

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